

# OrdnanceReports

News updates from around the world



March 26, 2003



*This publication is produced by the U.S. Army Ordnance Corps Communications Coordinator. The purpose of this publication is to provide Command Information materiel concerning world events and the U.S. military's role in those events. Ordnance specific events will be covered if appropriate. Direct your correspondence to Ed Starnes at 410-278-2415 (DSN 298-2415), or email [edward.starnes@ocs.apg.army.mil](mailto:edward.starnes@ocs.apg.army.mil).*

## Bush warns Americans war is far from over

by Scott Lindlaw

MacDILL AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. (AP) - President Bush said Wednesday the war in Iraq is far from over and warned that coalition forces will face "the most desperate elements of a doomed regime" as they close in on Baghdad.

Trying to rally troops and an anxious American public amid stiffening Iraqi resistance, Bush said, "We will stay on the path, mile by mile, all the way to Baghdad and all the way to victory."

Bush spoke to hundreds of uniformed military personnel as rising U.S. and British casualties raised questions about American battle plans. Nine Marines were killed Sunday in an ambush, and Army helicopters encountered fierce resistance during an attack Monday on Republican Guard units protecting the approaches to Baghdad. One helicopter went down and its two-man crew was captured.

The first bodies of fallen American servicemen were brought back to the United States on Tuesday.

We pray that God will bless and receive each of the fallen, and we thank God that liberty found such brave defenders," the president said.

Their sacrifice was not in vain, Bush said, asserting that Iraq's weapons of mass destruction could have gotten in the hands of terrorists.

"We will not wait to meet this danger with firefighters and doctors and police on the streets of our own cities," he said. "Instead, we are meeting this danger today with our Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard and Marines."

He listed achievements of the small military coalition that consists



*President Bush draws an applause from the troops stationed at MacDill Air Force Base during a speech Wednesday morning March 26, 2003 in Tampa, Fla. MacDill Air Force Base is the home to the United States Central Command. First lady Laura Bush, and Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, right, look on. (AP Photo/Chris O'Meara)*

mostly of British and U.S. forces. Air fields have been seized, terrorists camps destroyed and Saddam Hussein's highly trained Republican Guard troops are under "direct and intense attack," the president said.

"Day by day, Saddam Hussein is losing his grip on Iraq. Day by day, the Iraqi people are closer to freedom," he said.

"The military is making good progress in Iraq, yet this war is far from over," Bush said. "As they approach Baghdad, our fighting units are facing the most desperate elements of a doomed regime. We cannot know the duration of this war, but we are prepared for the battle ahead."

Bush's choice of words itself may have reflected concern about the

continued on page 4

# Republican Guard heads toward U.S. troops

by David Crary

A large contingent of Iraq's elite Republican Guard headed south in a 1,000-vehicle convoy Wednesday toward U.S. Marines in central Iraq - an area that already has seen the heaviest fighting of the war. In Baghdad, Iraqi officials said two cruise missiles hit a residential area, killing 14.

Intelligence officers with the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force said the Republican Guard units were headed from Baghdad on a route that avoids advancing U.S. Army forces but leads directly to the Marines who have been fighting in recent days around the city of An Nasiriyah.

The advance appeared to signal that the Republican Guard, Saddam Hussein's best trained and most loyal force, was still prepared to take the offensive despite days of allied air strikes and missile attacks on its positions.

In the far south, British forces fought on the fringes of the beleaguered city of Basra, where Iraqi militiamen also faced a local uprising. The first substantial relief convoy reached the Iraqi port of Umm Qasr after weathering a blinding sandstorm in its trip north from Kuwait.

The U.S. Army's 3rd Infantry Division drew to within 50 miles of Baghdad, west of where the Republican Guard was advancing. Other American forces were expected to join soon in squeezing the capital from several directions.

A military source said the U.S. Central Command now had evidence that the Iraqi regime had wired many of the bridges around Baghdad for destruction.

Iraqi officials said the U.S. missile attack in Baghdad killed 14 and injured 30 in the Al-Shaab neighborhood, an area crowded with apartments, auto repair shops and inexpensive restaurants. Associated Press Television News footage showed a large crater in the middle of a street, a child with a head bandage, and bodies wrapped in plastic sheeting in a pickup truck. Hundreds of people stood in front of a damaged building, some shaking fists in the air and shouting.

U.S. Central Command said it had no information about the incident.

"We don't have a report that corroborates that, so I can't confirm it," said Brig. General Vincent Brooks. "We do everything physically and scientifically possible to be precise in our targeting."

Brooks, at a news briefing in Qatar, also accused the Iraqi government of using its own civilians as human shields for some of its military units fighting against U.S. and British troops.

Asked about the Republican Guard movements, Brooks said, "There have been local positionings and survival positionings, but not

**continued on page 3**

## U.S.: discovery of Iraq chemical suits reinforce fears

by Nicole Winfield

CAMPAS SAYLIYAH, Qatar (AP) - A U.S. general said Wednesday the discovery of 3,000 chemical suits in a hospital in central Iraq that been used as an Iraqi base raised concern that Saddam Hussein's regime was prepared to use chemical weapons.

"What we found at the hospital reinforces our concern," said Brig. Gen. Vincent Brooks. "We are well-prepared to deal with the potential use of chemical weapons."

In addition to the chemical suits, the Central Command reported earlier that Marines found and confiscated gas masks and nerve gas antidote injectors in the hospital near An Nasiriyah.

Asked about 14 civilians killed in Baghdad on Tuesday in what Iraq said was a U.S. bombing, Brooks said that he had no information on the incident.

"We don't have a report that corroborates that, so I can't confirm it," he said. "We do everything physically and scientifically possible to be precise in our targeting."

Asked about reports that a large contingent of Iraq's elite Republican Guard were headed south toward U.S. Marines in central Iraq, Brooks said, "We've not seen any significant movements of the type of force you've described."

"There have been local positionings and survival positionings, but not serious attacks and we certainly remain, we believe, well in control of the situation at hand," he said.

Brooks showed images of an Iraqi military vehicle hidden under a bridge and a military base near a mosque and school. Also shown was communications equipment positioned in ancient ruins marked with the international symbol denoting it was a historical site.

Intelligence officers with the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force said the Republican Guard units were headed with a 1,000-vehicle convoy from Baghdad on a route that avoids advancing U.S. Army forces but leads directly to the Marines who have been fighting in recent days around the city of An Nasiriyah.

Brooks said that there had been fighting between different groups of Iraqis in the contested southern city of Basra on Monday, where British reports suggested there may have been an uprising against Saddam Hussein's regime.

"We saw fighting in the city between Iraqis - some of them in uniform, some not," he said.

He said Iraqi paramilitary forces were "shooting into the town of Basra" and compared their behavior to "global terrorists."

"It was a very confusing situation, to say the least," Brooks added.



*Iraqi army recruits ride in the back of a truck on a highway around Baghdad Wednesday March 26 2003, as a fierce sandstorm sweeps through the area. (AP Photo/Jerome Delay)*

## **Republican Guard heads toward U.S. troops continued**

serious attacks and we certainly remain, we believe, well in control of the situation at hand.”

En route to Baghdad, units from the 7th Cavalry Regiment fought a fierce running battle with Iraqi forces near the central city of Najaf. According to preliminary reports from American military officials, U.S. troops killed up to 500 Iraqi fighters, suffering the loss of two tanks but no casualties.

Hoping to cripple the Iraqi government’s communications, the allies attacked the state-run television headquarters in Baghdad before dawn Wednesday with missiles and air strikes. The station’s international satellite signal was knocked off the air for a few hours; broadcasts were intermittent after daybreak.

Iraq’s information minister, Mohammed Saeed al-Sahhaf, accused the U.S.-British coalition of striking civilian areas in several cities, notably An Nasiriyah, where he said more than 500 people were injured and 200 homes destroyed. Al-Sahhaf also contended that the allies did not have full control of Umm Qasr, where the food convoy arrived, and were holding only the dock area.

Around Basra, British forces on the edge of the city waged artillery battles with more than 1,000 Iraqi militiamen, who reportedly also faced some sort of insurrection by Shiite Muslim civilians opposed to Saddam.

“Truthfully, the reports are confused, but we believe there was some limited form of uprising,” British Prime Minister Tony Blair told Parliament members Wednesday. “Once people know that Saddam’s grip on power is being weakened, then there is no doubt at all that they wish to opt for freedom rather than repression.”

British officers said the Basra uprising became enough of a threat that the militiamen fired mortars to try to suppress it. British forces then silenced the Iraqi mortar positions with an artillery barrage, spokesman Lt. Col. Ronnie McCourt said.

McCourt said British troops also were firing at some of the militiamen who were trying to flee Basra.

Iraqi officials have denied there was any uprising in Basra.

The British - while awaiting an opportune moment to enter the heart of Basra - have been telling residents over loudspeakers that aid is waiting outside the city. Relief officials say many of the 1.3 million residents are drinking contaminated water and face the threat of diarrhea and cholera.

British forces staged a raid on a suburb of Basra, capturing a Baath party leader and killing 20 of his bodyguards, officials said.

Assigned to bring aid to another battle-scarred southern city, a seven-truck relief convoy - loaded with food and water - left Kuwait and reached the port of Umm Qasr on Wednesday.

“We planned for 30 trucks but we only got seven loaded because of the severe sandstorm,” said E.J. Russell of the Humanitarian Operations Center, a joint U.S.-Kuwaiti agency. The storm cut visibility to about 100 yards.

A handful of Iraqi children watched the convoy cross into Iraqi territory. One boy, about 10, pointed to his mouth and shouted, “Eat, eat!”

Plans to bring supplies to Iraqi civilians have been stalled for days because of fighting across southern Iraq.

U.S. officials have blamed Saddam’s regime for slowing the flow of aid by placing mines in Umm Qasr’s harbor, which serves much of the south. U.S. Navy helicopters flew two dolphins into Umm Qasr to help locate mines.

U.S. units in central Iraq appear to be shifting their strategy because of the attacks from Iraqi militiamen. Instead of racing to Baghdad, some units are moving slower to clear out pockets of opposition.

“We’re going into a hunting mode right now,” said Lt. Col. B.T. McCoy of 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines. “We’re going to start hunting down instead of letting them take the cheap shots.”



## **Bush warns Americans war is far from over continued**

pace of the war. Ahead of the speech, presidential spokesman Ari Fleischer had said that Bush intended to tell his audience war “progress is ahead of schedule.”

But a White House official speaking on the condition of anonymity said later that the president scratched out the phrase “ahead of schedule” as he reviewed the text en route here aboard Air Force One. Bush wanted to be more circumspect in his wording, the official said.

Bush spoke before receiving a classified military briefing at the headquarters of the Central Command, whose top general, Tommy Franks, is running the war against Iraq from a forward headquarters in Qatar.

He also had lunch with troops. His breakfast came with a diplomatic dig at French resistance to war: The menu aboard Air Force One listed “stuffed Freedom Toast,” instead of French toast.

At lunch, Bush walked an outdoor chow line, filling his plate with



*In this handout photo from the U.S. Navy, Sergeant Andrew Garrett watches K-Dog, a bottle nose dolphin attached to Commander Task Unit 55.4.3 leaps out of the water while training near the USS Gunston Hall in the Persian Gulf on March 18, 2003. Commander Task Unit 55.4.3 is a multinational team from the United States, Great Britain and Australia conducting deep/shallow water mine clearing operations to clear shipping lanes for humanitarian relief and are currently conducting missions in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. (AP Photo/ U.S. Navy, Brien Aho, HO)*

steak, baked potato and salad. He greeted troops from all four branches of the military and sat down to eat with them. “How’s everybody doing?” he asked as he shook a hand.

As Bush arrived at the outdoor pavilion, more than 100 troops in fatigues stood silently, then applauded politely. Bush ignored a reporter’s question about whether Saddam Hussein was alive.

During his speech earlier, Bush said, “I can assure you there will be a day of reckoning for Iraq, and that day is drawing near. We’ve seen their daring against ruthless enemies and their decency to an oppressed people. Millions of Americans are proud of our military, and so am I.”

His voice cracking with emotion, Bush added, “I’m honored to be the commander in chief.”

A new poll by the Pew Research Center showed just 38 percent of the public said the conflict was going well on Monday, down from 71 percent on Friday.

Bush spoke hours before meeting at Camp David with his principal war ally, British Prime Minister Tony Blair. The British leader was spending the night at the presidential retreat. The leaders planned a news conference Thursday.

Bush has not traveled within the United States since Feb. 20, a period in which he oversaw final preparations for battle and also a last-ditch effort to win U.N. backing for the war.

Central Command is responsible for U.S. military operations in 25 countries, from the Horn of Africa and the Persian Gulf to Central Asia.

It is also overseeing Operation Enduring Freedom - the military’s name for the global war on terrorism.



*President Bush gestures as he speaks to the troops and their families at MacDill Air Force Base Wednesday morning March 26, 2003 in Tampa, Fla. MacDill is the home to the United States Central Command. (AP Photo/ Chris O’Meara)*

*US Army combat engineers discuss their plans at a checkpoint between the cities of Najaf and Karbala as another sandstorm turns the daylight orange the second day on March 26, 2003. U.S. troops fought a fierce battle with Iraqi forces on Wednesday for control of a bridge over the Euphrates river close to Najaf, a U.S. military officer monitoring the clash said. He said an unspecified number of U.S. tanks and Bradley fighting vehicles had been destroyed by Iraqis armed with rocket propelled grenades and automatic rifles during the clash at Abu Sukhayr, 13 miles southeast of Najaf. Reuters photo.*



## Report says slain U.S. soldiers tried to surrender

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - One report reaching the U.S. military said that some of the 12 soldiers whose supply convoy was ambushed near Nassiriya in southern Iraq on Sunday were killed by their captors although they tried to surrender, a U.S. defense official said on Wednesday.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the report received from the field said that the U.S. soldiers “weren’t given the opportunity to surrender. They attempted to surrender.” Some of the U.S. soldiers instead were killed by the Iraqi forces, the official said.

The official did not characterize the nature or reliability of the intelligence information on which this report was based. The official also did not indicate where the surrendering soldiers were slain.

Another defense official said the U.S. military had received “mixed reports” about the incident.

U.S. officials have said an Army supply convoy apparently made a wrong turn during a battle near Nassiriya, and members of an Army maintenance unit were ambushed by Iraqi “irregular forces.” U.S. officials say 12 soldiers were missing.

Five U.S. soldiers being held as prisoners were shown being interrogated on Iraqi television. The dead bodies of several others also were shown on Iraqi television. Some of the bodies appeared to have bullet wounds to the forehead, suggestive of possible execution, and were shown sprawled on the floor of a room in puddles of blood.



*Iraqi young men struggle to get boxes with food from a trailer brought to Safwan, Iraq by the Kuwait Red Crescent on Wednesday, March 26, 2003. The humanitarian aid in three trailers was escorted by Royal Marines.(AP Photo/Gustavo Ferrari)*



*Iraqis in Umm Qasr receive water from US and British Civil Affairs troops in Umm Qsar, Wednesday, March 26, 2003. (AP Photo/Simon Walker, Pool)*



# General: Iraqi regime's showing its 'true colors'

by Kathleen T. Rhem, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, March 26, 2003 — The Iraqi regime has “shown its true colors” in recent days with brutality and disregard for international rules of warfare, a U.S. Central Command official said today.

Army Brig. Gen. Vincent Brooks, deputy director of operations at CENTCOM's deployed headquarters in Qatar, said Iraqi forces are repressing the Iraqi population and deliberately endangering protected sites.

In the southern city of Basra, Brooks said, coalition forces have seen “a significant degree of violence” done to the civilian population by Iraqi paramilitary forces.

He noted Iraqi forces have fired mortars at civilians and that British troops have been working in the region to cut off any Iraqi reinforcements from entering the town. U.K. forces are also firing on Iraqi positions that are attacking the town.

He said these and other actions of Iraqi paramilitary forces — sometimes in uniform, sometimes not — are “more akin to the behaviors of global terrorists than they are to a nation.”

“It's clear to us that the people of Basra have had about enough of what the regime is doing to them,” Brooks said, adding, “We remain committed to their liberation, not their destruction.”

In an earlier briefing in recent days, Brooks had shown photographs of Iraqi MiG fighter jets parked in cemeteries. Today, he showed images of military communications equipment located “right beside” 2,000-year-old ruins on the banks of the Tigris River 20 miles southeast of Baghdad.

“We remain committed to preserving the rich culture and heritage

and the resources of the Iraqi people,” the general said. “The regime continues to put them at risk.”

Brooks said he couldn't confirm media reports that an errant American bomb killed 14 Iraqi civilians in a Baghdad market. Once officials can confirm what happened in Baghdad, they will release that information, he said. Brooks added that coalition forces “do everything physically and scientifically possible to minimize secondary effects” on both people and civilian structures.

Operationally, coalition forces “remain on plan” and are confident of their objectives. “We're unified in purpose and in our commitment to achieving our aims,” he said.

Direct attacks against regime command and control assets, communications sites and the integrated air-defense system continued during the past 24 hours. Coalition forces also struck several targets of opportunity.

U.S. forces from the Army's V Corps, deployed from Germany, “sustained a few damaged vehicles and in turn inflicted significant damage on the Iraqi force” southeast of An Najaf, Brooks said.

Near An Nasiriyah, the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force secured a hospital that was being used as a paramilitary headquarters. Brooks said Marines found 200 weapons, Iraqi military uniforms, a tank, 3,000 chemical protective suits, and auto-injectors filled with nerve agent antidote.

Maritime components cleared the Khor Abdullah waterway “all the way up to the port of Umm Qasr.” Brooks noted this would allow coalition forces to begin delivering humanitarian supplies.

He spoke briefly about Iraqi missile attacks into Kuwait. He said the Iraqis have fired 10 missiles, “all of which have been oriented toward Kuwait.” All missiles that were threatening were knocked down by Patriot missiles.

The general said it was “interesting” that several of the Iraqis' Ababil-100 and Al Samoud missiles have flown beyond the 150-kilometer limit imposed by the United Nations. “One missile flew extremely long and went into the north Arabian Gulf,” Brooks said, noting that missile fell into the water after flying about 190 kilometers.

He also mentioned that coalition forces have taken more than 4,000 Iraqi prisoners of war.



*A member of the U.S. Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) team checks Russian-made mines on an abandoned Iraqi vessel in Kuwait on Monday. AP photo.*

**OrdnanceReports  
are archived at  
[www.goordnance.apg.  
army.mil/  
ordnancereports.htm](http://www.goordnance.apg.army.mil/ordnancereports.htm)**

# Seven nations to join NATO next year

By PAULAMES

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) - Seven central and east European nations signed treaties Wednesday to become members of NATO, an expansion hailed as a historic reunification of the continent after decades of Cold War division.

Foreign ministers from Romania, Bulgaria, Slovakia, Lithuania, Slovenia, Estonia and Latvia signed the papers at a formal ceremony at NATO headquarters before delegates from the 19 current NATO members.

NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson praised the alliance for opening its doors, saying future historians will recognize the decision as a turning point in building a Europe "reunited and free, a Europe united in peace, democracy and common values from the Baltics to the Balkans, from the Atlantic to the Black Sea."

NATO invited the seven to join at a November summit in the Czech capital, Prague. The countries will become members in May 2004 if their parliaments ratify the treaties. They will be covered by the alliance's core security guarantee that states an attack on one member is an attack on all.

Latvia's foreign minister, Sandra Kalniete, said the treaty means her country will "never again have to stand alone." The country was occupied by the Soviet Union during World War II and remained under its control until 1991.

Estonia Foreign Minister Kristiina Ojuland called the accession of seven newcomers "a historic step for a Europe free, whole and at

peace"

The United States firmly supported NATO's post-Cold War eastward expansion. In turn, it received strong backing from most newcomers in the run-up to the war against Iraq - in marked contrast to opposition from long-standing allies France, Germany and Belgium.



Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld welcomed the pro-American sentiment from the easterners, saying it represented the views of a "new Europe" while French President Jacques Chirac denounced their refusal to back his anti-war stance.

Further underlining the demise of Cold War divisions, five of the new NATO members will join the European Union in May 2004 along with Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic, which became NATO members in 1999.

Romania and Bulgaria must wait until 2007 before they enter the EU.

In Slovenia - the only one of the seven NATO candidates to have a referendum on the alliance, 66.2 percent of citizens voted Sunday to support their country's membership.

## Iraqi Shi'ite opposition calls for revolt against government

ZUBAYR, Iraq (Reuters) - Unrest rippled in the Iraqi southern city of Basra on Wednesday but it was unclear how serious or widespread the opposition was to the ruling Baath party of President Saddam Hussein.

As an Iraqi Shi'ite opposition group called for the Iraqi people to revolt against Saddam, a British minister and military officers said some unrest was evident and it appeared that local supporters of the president had been firing on their own people.

But correspondents in Basra for Qatar's Al-Jazeera television and for Abu Dhabi Television reported on Wednesday they had seen no signs of unrest.

Al-Jazeera reporter Mohammed al-Abdallah said: "The streets of Basra are very calm and there are no indications of violence or riots. There are no signs of the reported uprising.

"All we can hear are distant explosions in the southeast, and we believe fighting is going on there."

Britain's defense minister said there had been disturbances in Basra, with residents "rising up" against Baghdad and Iraqi government militia attacking them.

"Whether it is still happening remains unclear," Defense Secretary Geoff Hoon told BBC radio in London.



*A member of Britain's 7th Armored Brigade The Desert Rats guards a mosque in a small enclave west of the city of Basra, Iraq March 25, 2003. British Prime Minister Tony Blair said on March 26 he believed there had been a limited uprising in Basra overnight. "In relation to what has happened in Basra overnight, truthfully reports are confused, but we believe there was some limited form of uprising," Blair told parliament. Reuters photo.*

continued on page 10

# New mine detector aids Bagram troops

by U.S.Army Pfc. Charles D. Meseke, Combined Task Force-82 PAO

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan — A combat engineer's job is slow moving at times. When it comes to clearing minefields, like the many that litter the area surrounding Bagram Air Base, each action must be made with precision.

If an engineer makes a mistake when clearing mines it could cost his life, or another soldier's life.

For this reason, every piece of metal that alerts a mine detector must be marked and probed to make sure there is no hazard, explained Army Capt. Mike Baker, commander of Company C, 27th Engineer Battalion, deployed from Fort Bragg, N.C.

This is what makes the new Handheld Standoff Mine Detector System so important. The system is the newest mine detector to be used by the Army and is being used for the first time in a combat situation by soldiers of Co. C at Bagram.

HSTAMIDS uses the standard practice of metal detection for finding mines, but also has ground-penetrating radar to help reduce false identification of land mines.

This is especially important in an area like Bagram, said Baker. Bagram's soil is littered with pieces of scrap metal that conventional mine detectors often detect as low-metal antipersonnel mines.

The detector uses a combination of metal detection and density-measuring radar to determine if a mine may be present.

"You can cancel out the metal pieces that you used to have to probe for that weren't really mines at all," said Army Spc. Mercellus O. Fields, a combat engineer with Co. C.

Fields and other combat engineers were required to complete 40 hours of classes to learn how to use the HSTAMIDS. Soldiers then qualified with the detector by finding all the training mines placed in a lane to be cleared.

After the course is completed the engineers can still be seen practicing their skills just outside their living quarters in Viper City.

"I feel confident with (the HSTAMIDS), it was easy to learn, and simple to use," Fields said.

Its new technology of using radar and metal detection has made it one of the first true mine detectors used. Previous detectors did little more than alert an operator when there was metal content in the ground.

"The radar lets us see density changes in the ground, and that is the difference between finding pieces of scrap metal, or an actual mine," said Spc. Gwinn Alva, a combat engineer of Co. C.

"Overall, it is a more efficient system because you will not have to probe for every small piece of metal that you come across," said Alva. This efficiency will help speed up the process of clearing



*Pvt. Jeff Salem, a combat engineer of C Company, 27th Engineer Battalion, hones his skills on the Handheld Standoff Mine Detector System at Bagram Air Field. The 27th Engineer Bn. is the first unit to use the new HSTAMIDS in a combat role.*

lanes in a minefield.

Some of the engineers estimated that with the HSTAMIDS they will be able to clear in one day what would have taken a week in the past.

Afghanistan is one of the world's most heavily mined countries, and Bagram, a former Soviet air field is one of the worst areas, according to the engineers.

The task of clearing mines is always ongoing for C Co., and that is why the HSTAMIDS is such a welcomed tool for its effectiveness and speed.

"The HSTAMIDS is more reliable than any other mine detection system we have used," Alva said. "Overall it is the most efficient mine detector we have."

## 4th Infantry Division headed for Gulf

By Charles Aldinger

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The United States is flying its high-tech 4th Infantry Division and other units totaling more than 30,000 troops to the Gulf to join the invasion of Iraq, the military said on Wednesday.

Troops from the division, based at Fort Hood, Texas, and considered one of the most modern fighting forces in the military, will begin flying to the Gulf region in coming days to join its heavy armor and equipment now approaching Kuwait on ships.

The division, with a total of 16,000 troops at Fort Hood and Fort Carson, Colorado, has been awaiting deployment for more than two months. It was originally scheduled to go to Turkey to open a northern

**continued on page 11**



# Fighting in Afghanistan leaves 13 dead

by Amir Shah

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) - Suspected Taliban fighters attacked a government checkpoint in northwestern Afghanistan, starting fighting that left at least 13 combatants dead, a military commander said Wednesday.

About 400 gunmen attacked the checkpoint Tuesday in Tora Shaikh in the northwestern province of Badghis near the border with Turkmenistan, said Mohammad Karim Khadem, a brigade commander in the area.

Seven attackers and six government soldiers were killed in fighting on Tuesday and Wednesday, Khadem said.

There was no independent confirmation of the claim.

A commander in neighboring Herat province, Ammanullah Khan, gave a different version of events and suggested the fighting was ethnically motivated.

Ammanullah Khan, a Pashtun, said forces loyal to Tajik warlord Ismail Khan, who also is governor of Herat province, began attacking the Pashtun village of Atashan in Badghis province on Tuesday.

He said Ismail Khan's forces captured Atashan and burned scores of houses before advancing toward nearby Mangan on Wednesday, where he said fighting was continuing.

Fighting has rarely been reported in Badghis province. Ammanullah



*In this handout photo from the U.S. Army, a ground convoy moves along the Sami Ghar Mountains of southern Kandahar province, Afghanistan, Tuesday, March 25, 2003 during Operation Valiant Strike. U.S.-led forces broadened a sweep of southeastern Afghanistan for terror suspects and their allies on Tuesday, a day after collecting a large cache of weapons that could have been used by rebel fighters, a U.S. Army spokesman said. (AP Photo/ U.S. Army, HO)*

Khan said the area was inhabited mostly by Pashtuns.

Forces loyal to Ismail Khan have clashed repeatedly with those of Ammanullah Khan since the former Taliban regime was ousted in a U.S.-led war in 2001. The Taliban drew much of its ranks from ethnic Pashtuns.

## North Korea cuts off U.S. military contact

by Vincent Yu

PANMUNJOM, Korea (AP) - Accusing the United States of planning an invasion, North Korea on Wednesday cut off the only regular military contact with the U.S.-led command that monitors the Korean War armistice.

The move will further isolate the communist North amid tensions over its suspected nuclear weapons programs.

South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun on Wednesday dismissed as "groundless" allegations by the North that American forces may attack.

"There will be no war on the Korean Peninsula as long as we do not want a war," Roh was quoted as saying by his office, adding that Washington has repeatedly pledged to resolve the crisis peacefully

Meanwhile, U.N. envoy Maurice Strong said that North Korean

officials told him in meetings in Pyongyang last week that they "reserved the right" to reprocess their spent fuel rods that experts say could yield enough plutonium for several atomic bombs within months. Such a move would spike tension even further.

North's Korea People's Army sent a telephone message to the U.S.-led U.N. Command saying it will no longer send its delegates to the liaison-officers' meeting at the inter-Korean border village of Panmunjom.

"It is meaningless to sit together with the U.S. forces side to discuss any issue as long as it remains arrogant," the North's official news agency KCNA quoted the North Korean message as saying.

North Korea claimed again Tuesday the United States may attack the communist state after the war in Iraq and spark a "second Iraqi

**continued on page 13**

# AMC demonstrates war technology on Capitol Hill

by Bruce Anderson

WASHINGTON (Army News Service, March 24, 2003) - Representatives from the Army Materiel Command's research facilities demonstrated technology being used by the Army in the war on terrorism March 21 at the Senate Russell Building.

The AMC experts came to the Senate building at the request of Chairman Pat Roberts of the Emerging Threats and Capabilities subcommittee of the Senate Armed Services committee.

Gen. Paul J. Kern, AMC's commanding general, and three other Department of Defense representatives were scheduled to testify to the subcommittee after the technology demonstration. The hearing was pre-empted by other Senate activities.

The Army experts demonstrated technology being used in the War on Terrorism, including operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, and in Homeland Security operations. The experts also discussed projected technology improvements for use in the force that will be the end-result of Army Transformation - the Objective Force.

Among the equipment and technology demonstrated was protective body armor, the Scorpion Integrated Protection Analysis Combat Ensemble, the PackBot and various unmanned aerial vehicles.

Spc. Jason C. Ashline, 10th Mountain Division, provided a very personal demonstration of the effectiveness of the body armor. Ashline was hit in the chest by enemy fire March 2, 2002, during OperatonAnaconda in Afghanistan. The force of the impact knocked him down, but his body armor stopped the bullet. "My vest saved me from a trip to the morgue," Ashline said.

Ashline used his protective vest as part of the display and helped Roberts try the vest on.

The type of body armor that saved Ashline's life will be further improved and incorporated in the Scorpion ensemble, said Sgt. Raul A. Lopez, Operational Forces Interface Group. Lopez was with Ashline in Afghanistan when Ashline was hit.

The Scorpion ensemble is a combination of human interface, load bearing system, electronic linkages and multiple levels of protection. It is intended to increase the soldier's lethality and survivability, and should lighten the soldier's load from the current load of 100 pounds to approximately 50 pounds, Lopez said.

The PackBot is a man-portable, tracked ground vehicle being used in Afghanistan to explore caves and tunnels. It has video and audio sensors and is used as a robotic "point man" for soldiers searching dangerous areas, said Stuart H. Young, a robotics team leader at the Army Research Laboratory.

Future developments of this vehicle will enable it to keep up with soldiers in every combat environment. The PackBot will be more portable and easier to use, and will be an extension of the Objective Force warrior's organic equipment, Young said. This is planned to be one of many sensors available to the future soldier.

ARL's intent is for the future soldier to be able to operate the equipment with minimal effort, and for the robot controls and the data provided by PackBot to be available simultaneously to everyone in the unit.

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles play an important role in current operations in the war against terrorism. The most common current uses are base security support, route reconnaissance and convoy security, said John C. Dugan, a contractor for U.S. Special Operations Command.

The UAVs extend a unit's ability to see their environment, enabling them to better anticipate danger. Sometimes, the mere presence of a UAV in the sky over an operation serves as a deterrent, Dugan said.

In the Objective Force, UAVs are expected to be smaller and available for use at the small-unit level.

## **Iraqi Shi'ite opposition calls for revolt against government continued**

Hoon said: "Certainly there have been disturbances with local people rising up against the regime.

"We know that there have been attempts by regime militia to attack those people, their own people, to attack them with mortars, machinegun fire, rifles and so on."

He said British forces stationed around Basra, a Shi'ite Muslim city with a history of opposition to the Sunni-dominated Iraqi government, had not witnessed the uprising at first hand but had learned of it through "various sources."

Basra was the scene of a failed Shi'ite insurrection after the 1991 Gulf War.

An opposition group leader, Mohsen Hakim, said widespread demonstrations had been held in parts of Basra on Tuesday.

Hakim, of the Tehran-based Supreme Council for Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI), said there had been clashes between local people and the security forces.

Many civilians were injured, he said.

"Opposition groups ... ask the Iraqi nation to be fully prepared to rise against Iraq's dictatorial Baath regime, to free cities and villages," he said.

SCIRI spokesman Abu Islam also said earlier there had been disturbances in Basra on Tuesday, but he did not think these added up to a popular uprising.

Basra is Iraq's second largest city and many of its people have been cut off from water supplies for several days, with aid agencies warning of a humanitarian crisis developing there.

# Guard flexes muscle in the war against terrorism

by Master Sgt. Bob Haskell, Special to the American Forces Press Service

ARLINGTON, Va., March 26, 2003 — More than 141,000 members of the Army and Air National Guard were mobilized, placed on alert or identified for possible mobilization by March 24, five days after Operation Iraqi Freedom began, National Guard Bureau officials have reported.

That is about 30 percent of the National Guard's total force, they said. It's also nearly twice as many guardsmen as were mobilized for the 1991 Persian Gulf War, they added.

All told, more than 78,000 Army Guard and 18,000 Air Guard members have been mobilized to help wage the war against terrorism at home and abroad in countries such as Afghanistan and Iraq. That's over 20,000 more guardsmen than were mobilized for the Gulf War.

President Bush, a former Texas Air National Guard fighter pilot, announced the start of military operations "to disarm Iraq, to free its people and to defend the world from grave danger" on March 19.

On the home front, National Guard troops helped tighten security at nuclear power plants and other critical sites after Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge raised the national threat level to code orange on March 17, days before the attacks on Iraq began. Guardsmen also helped federal officers maintain security along the U.S. borders with Canada and Mexico. Code orange, indicating a high risk of attack, is just one level below the highest threat level, which is red.

The California National Guard's 9th Civil Support Team from Los Alamitos supported the Los Angeles Police Department's efforts to beef up security March 23 for the 75th Academy Awards in Hollywood.

The 22-member team was on standby to detect biological, chemical or radiological elements should a weapon of mass destruction have shattered the evening. Team members also performed sweeps and other detection duties, said Lt. Col. Terry Knight, a Guard spokesman. That team has previously served during two World Series, a Super Bowl and during last year's Winter Olympics in Utah, he added.

An undisclosed number of guardsmen were in New York City supporting the police department's efforts to keep rail stations, bridges and tunnels secure and open to the public, a New York Guard spokesman explained.

The Associated Press reported that National Guard troops were dispatched to the Palo Verde nuclear power plant, the nation's largest, near Phoenix, in the wake of reports that it may have been a target for terrorists. More than six states have sent guardsmen to nuclear power plants, according to a nuclear power industry survey.

Preparations to wage war with Iraq unless that country agreed to disarm prompted the call-ups that have steadily increased since the start of this year. The National Guard is providing more than half the reserve component troops who have responded.

The number of Army and Air Guard people alerted for or participating in the war against terrorism vaulted from nearly 52,000 on Jan. 10 to nearly 99,000 by the following Monday, Guard Bureau officials reported. That was the largest Guard force since the terrorist attacks on America 16 months earlier.

The total first surpassed 100,000 on Jan. 29 and had climbed to approximately 120,000 by Feb. 21. As of mid-March, the number stood at 141,057.

The Guard has weighed in with some of its premier units, and some states and territories have contributed heavily to the cause.

About 200 members of the F-16 fighter squadron in the District of Columbia Air Guard's 113th Wing departed Andrews Air Force Base, Md., Feb. 21 for an undisclosed desert location. The wing has earned nine consecutive Air Force outstanding unit awards and the Spaatz Trophy as the Air Guard's top flying unit for 2002.

"We want to make sure that Sept. 11 never happens in our backyard again, so we have to take care of business elsewhere," reasoned one of the wing's veteran airmen.

More than 150 members of the Alaska Air Guard's 176th Wing in Anchorage, including members of the elite 210th Rescue Squadron, received mobilization orders but had not been flown out of Alaska by the second day of the campaign in Iraq, a Guard spokesman explained.

Puerto Rico has contributed half its Guard force to the war against terrorism. That island territory's Army Guard force numbers more than 8,500 citizen-soldiers and its Air Guard force includes about 1,300 people. Since January, 4,195 Army Guard soldiers and 690 Air Guard personnel have been called to active duty.

*(Master Sgt. Bob Haskell works for the National Guard Bureau in Arlington, Va.)*

## 4th Infantry Division headed for Gulf continued

front against Baghdad, but Ankara refused to grant basing rights for American forces.

The division's equipment, including more than 200 M-1A2 tanks, is currently being shipped from waters off Turkey to Kuwait and the troops are expected to go there.

But Dan Hassett, a spokesman at Fort Hood, refused to say exactly where the troops would be flown.

"The 4th Infantry Division has received orders to move and will be going in the coming days," Hassett told Reuters.

He said that other military units totaling about 14,000 troops were also moving with the division. The mobile 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, with 5,200 troops, announced at Fort Carson on Tuesday that it had received orders to go.



# U.S. seeks to curb some parcels to troops

by Mona Chamberlin

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) - Legions of well-meaning church groups and schoolchildren have overwhelmed the military with unsolicited care packages and letters for troops fighting in and around Iraq.

Because of security concerns, the Department of Defense has started advising people that many of the packages and letters intended for random troops can't be accepted.

In addition to possibly exposing military personnel to biological or chemical threats, unsolicited mail competes for limited airlift space with mail sent by friends and relatives, the Pentagon said.

In October 2001, anthrax concerns led defense officials to abolish the "Operation Dear Abby" and "Any Service Member" postal programs, now conducted through e-mail.

"There's great support ... for the deployed servicemen - not only for National Guard but for all the services - and believe me, the people who are deployed need that support," said Lt. Col. Pete Brooks, spokesman for the South Carolina National Guard.

"The problem comes in not knowing what is in the prepackaged packages, and of course that comes from the anthrax scare."

Phillip Reavis, principal at Oakview Elementary in Simpsonville, said his pupils were already writing letters when word came that they might not be delivered.

"We have been looking at some other opportunities, such as electronic mail," Reavis said.

Children at Newington Elementary in Summerville collected items to fill more than 270 shoeboxes for troops, which teachers took to nearby Charleston Air Force Base on Monday - despite the Pentagon advisory.

These packages are all inspected here by our people and then sealed up," said Lt. Col. Bruce Adkins of the 701st Airlift Squadron. "We are trying to do the best we can to get them distributed."

Supporters elsewhere were unhappy with the policy but seemed to understand.

"It's too bad," said Irene Ungson, a nurse from Campbell, Calif., who was trying to find out how a Girl Scout group could send letters to soldiers. "You don't necessarily have to believe in the war, but I think we need to be supporting the guys over there."

The Department of Defense refers troop supporters to the USO,



*Air Force Senior Airman Kristopher Koller, from Martins Ferry, Ohio, receives a USO care package from volunteer Pat Hollenbeck before leaving for the Middle East, Tuesday, March 25, 2003 at Baltimore-Washington International airport in Linthicum, Md. The Pentagon wants the public to stop sending unsolicited care packages and letters to random members of the military due to security concerns. (AP Photo/Gail Burton)*

which accepts \$25 donations toward Pentagon-approved packages for soldiers headed overseas. The packages contain items that military personnel have requested - such as CDs, books, toiletries, sunscreen and, the most popular, calling cards - along with a message from the person who provided the contribution.

Most of the packages go to departing troops, because delivering items in the middle of a battle is a logistical nightmare, said Elaine Rogers, president of the USO of Metropolitan Washington.

American Red Cross spokeswoman Stacey Grissom said her office is encouraging people to contact their local Red Cross to determine where support is needed most. Volunteering time at veterans' hospitals and helping military families left behind is often more important - and probably more successful - than trying to send cookies or shaving supplies to the front lines, she said.

USO officials said their group can use cash donations to support other programs, which include housing for family members of wounded soldiers or entertainment events.

And Brooks, of the National Guard, was quick to say that the military doesn't want to seem like it doesn't appreciate the thought.

"We're very grateful for all the support that is going on, it's just that the support needs to come in the way that the Department of Defense has approved," he said.



*An Iraqi boy and a small child ride a camel near tanks from U.S. army 2nd Battalion, 70 Armor during a desert sandstorm south of the city of Karbala, March 26, 2003. U.S. troops pushed onward through a gritty haze on Wednesday after a fierce sandstorm swept Iraq, coating soldiers in grime and temporarily slowing their northward advance. Reuters photo.*

## **North Korea cuts off U.S. military contact continued**

crisis.” It pledged to beef up its defenses.

The U.N. Command, which has monitored the armistice since the end of the 1950-53 war, had no immediate comment. Without a peace treaty, the Korean Peninsula is still technically at a state of war.

U.S. officials representing the U.N. Command have met North Korean officers at Panmunjom almost weekly since the end of the war.

In Japan, space agency officials were preparing to launch their first spy satellites into orbit on Friday. North Korea has condemned the move, prompting fears it may retaliate and test-fire a long-range missile.

Meanwhile in the North’s capital, Pyongyang, lawmakers convened the rubber-stamp parliament.

North Korean Finance Minister Mun Il bong said that the 2003 budget will increase 14.4 percent from last year, according to KCNA.

The North Korean government will allocate 15.4 percent of the budget for national defense, up from 14.9 percent last year, Mun said.

“This year.. the state will give top priority to the production of quality raw and other materials needed for increasing the combat power of the people’s army and the national defense industry so as to boost the capability of the revolutionary armed forces in every way,” he said.

North Korea accuses Washington of inciting a dispute over its alleged programs to develop nuclear weapons to create an excuse for invasion. President Bush has branded the North part of an “axis of evil” with Iraq and Iran.

Washington says it seeks a diplomatic solution to the crisis - but Bush has said that if diplomacy fails a military solution may be considered.

South Korean Foreign Minister Yoon Young-kwan left Wednesday for Washington to discuss North Korea with Secretary of State Colin Powell and other U.S. officials.

During his four-day visit, Yoon also hopes to arrange a summit in the United States between presidents Roh and Bush, which he said would take place in late April at the earliest.

With the United States focused on Iraq, experts fear North Korea might use the opportunity to reprocess spent nuclear fuel to make atomic bombs.

The standoff flared in October when U.S. officials said Pyongyang admitted having a secret nuclear program in violation of a 1994 pact.

Washington and its allies suspended oil shipments, promised under that agreement, and Pyongyang retaliated by withdrawing from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and taking steps to reactivate a nuclear facility capable of producing several bombs within months.

**Go Ordnance!**

**[www.goordnance.apg.army.mil](http://www.goordnance.apg.army.mil)**

*Korea - 50 years ago this week, March 27-April 2, 1953*

## Two earn Medal of Honor at outpost Vegas

by Jim Caldwell

WASHINGTON (Army News Service, March 26, 2003) - Marine Sgt. Daniel P. Matthews and Navy Corpsman William R. Charette earned the Medal of Honor during the fight to retake outpost Vegas in Korea, 50 years ago this week.

March 27-29, 1953 — Around midday March 27, the 5th Marine Regiment attacks to retake outposts Vegas and Reno. The outposts were lost to a regiment-size enemy attack March 26. Artillery, mortar, tanks and aircraft support the Marine effort.

The Chinese also use artillery and mortars against the Marines. They also come under rifle and automatic weapons fire, along with grenades, when they start up the hills.

A battalion from the 7th Marine Regiment was loaned to the 5th MR for the assault on Vegas. Two members of the battalion's F Company will earn the Medal of Honor during the action.

Sgt. Daniel P. Matthews, San Fernando, Calif., sees a Chinese machine-gun crew firing at a medic to keep him from getting to a wounded Marine lying in the open.

Matthews sneaks up to a rock that is part of the enemy position without being seen. He jumps up on the rock, shooting at the Reds. Automatic weapons fire from another enemy position hits him almost immediately, but he manages to hold on and kill the three Chinese on the machine gun. Then he crumples and dies on the rock.

Below him, the medic runs out and drags the wounded Marine to cover.

It is dark by the time F Company makes it to the first trenches on Vegas. Corpsman William R. Charette, Ludington, Mich., has been busy tending to wounded Marines all afternoon. Charette is a friend of Francis C. Hammond from Navy medical training. He does not yet know that Hammond gave his life helping wounded Americans during the Chinese attack on March 26.

The lead company is in the next trench line farther up the hill. They're being hit with mortars, small arms and grenades. When Charette hears wounded men screaming for a corpsman, he knows the company's medics need help.

He runs up the hill with bullets whizzing by and explosions all around him.

He is directed to a badly wounded Marine lying in the trench. While he's working, the Chinese begin rolling grenades downhill to the trenches. One lands by Charette and the casualty.

He does not want to jump on the grenade. He tries to push it away with his medical bag and covers his patient with his body.

The grenade explodes, sending shrapnel into his face. His helmet is blown off and he is deafened and temporarily blinded. But his patient is not hit.



More wounded are brought to him and he works throughout the night trying to save them. His supplies run low and he even uses his own clothes to make bandages.

Near dawn March 28, the Marines are told to withdraw from Vegas. They have to use a smoke screen because the Chinese fire has not let up.

Charette gets help moving his patients down the hill -

all but one. The man is partially covered by a collapsed trench wall. One of his legs has been nearly severed. The only way Charette can get him out is to kneel down and pick him up in his arms. Then he walks down the hill carrying the man, hearing bullets zipping by all the way.

Charette is nominated for the Navy Cross. When officials read about his actions, they upgrade the nomination to the Medal of Honor.

Charette is working in a field hospital in Korea in late 1953 when told he has earned the highest military honor. He is flown to Washington, where President Dwight D. Eisenhower presents the Medal to him Jan. 12, 1954.

Marine leadership decides to focus on just one hill for the moment and the hill is Vegas. Two battalions attack. They have to go through the same deadly fire from the Chinese, but by noon on March 28 they have retaken Vegas. Then they have to hold off counterattacks for the next two nights, receiving help from artillery and mortars, which hit the enemy when they are organizing for an attack, during the attack and when they retreat.

Taking Vegas March 28 cost the Marines 118 killed, 801 wounded and 98 missing. They are hard losses even compared to an estimated 1,300 Chinese casualties.

continued on page 15





## Two earn Medal of Honor at outpost Vegas continued

Marines, other Americans and allies on the line continue their engagements with the enemy, unaware of events that give hope that the end of the war may be in sight.

March 28-April 2 —A message from North Korean Premier Kim Il Sung and Chinese commander Gen. Peng Teh-Huai is delivered to U.N. liaison officers at Panmunjom March 28. It contains the Red leaders' agreement to exchange sick and wounded prisoners of war. U.S.Army Gen. Mark Clark, U.N. Supreme Commander, had suggested the exchange to the two communist leaders Feb. 22, but the message makes no mention of that.

The communiqué appears to go further than just the prisoner exchange. It says an arrangement "should be made to lead to the smooth settlement of the entire question of prisoners of war, thereby achieving an armistice in Korea for which people throughout the world are longing."

Clark seeks permission from the U.S. military and political leadership to reply to the letter. He is instructed to frame the reply so the Reds understand that they must be willing to accept the U.N. stance on POWs and show they will bargain in good faith.

Before Clark can send his reply, Chinese Foreign Minister Chou En Lai releases a statement endorsing exchanging ailing prisoners March 30. But Chou also seems to accept the U.N. position on POWs since "this question now constitutes the only obstacle (to) an armistice in Korea." The Reds are "prepared to take steps to eliminate the differences on this issue."

He says both sides "should undertake to repatriate immediately after the cessation of hostilities all those prisoners of war ... who

insist upon repatriation and to hand over the remaining prisoners of war to a neutral state so as to ensure a just solution to the question of their repatriation."

Then to make sure everyone knows he isn't caving in, he adds that the only reason some communist prisoners refused repatriation is because they were afraid of "the intimidation and with oppression of the opposite side." Those prisoners just have to be told they will be welcomed back home to change their minds, he says.

American leaders and U.N. delegates note that Chou's solution was contained in an Indian peace proposal, which the Soviet bloc vetoed in the U.N.

Kim endorses Chou's remarks on March 31, the same day Clark sends his carefully worded acceptance to the communist leaders. The general's message is clear, the communists must show they really accept the U.N. position and will bargain in good faith on how the truce will be implemented.

The Soviet Union endorses the Chinese-North Korean offer April 1 and urges the United States to accept it, calling it part of the "peace offensive" begun after Josef Stalin's death.

At Panmunjom April 2, the communists propose a full meeting April 6 to decide how the sick and wounded prisoners will be exchanged.

*(Jim Caldwell writes for the TRADOC News Service. Sources are Facts on File, 1953; Truce Tent and Fighting Front by Walter G. Hermes, Office of the Chief of Military History; and Korean War Heroes by Edward F. Murphy, Presidio Press, 1992)*

*U.S. Marines of 3rd  
battalion 4th Regiment  
on the move alongside  
the main road to  
Baghdad used by the  
U.S. led coalition in  
central Iraq, Wednesday,  
March 26, 2003.  
Sandstorms starting  
Tuesday thwarted air  
missions over Iraq and  
slowed to a crawl U.S.-  
led coalition forces  
edging for the capital.  
(AP Photo/Laurent  
Rebours)*





*Marines charge up a sand berm from behind which Iraqi soldiers had opened fire on their convoy. (Sun photo by John Makely)*



*Soldiers of the British 16 Air Assault Brigade, 3 Army Air Corps, patrol the desert around the oil fields of North Ramala in a sandstorm . Firefighters are prepared to resume efforts to douse burning oil wells on March 26 after British troops told them the area was secure. (AP/Ian Jones)*



*An Iraqi child holds a food parcel distributed by Royal Marines, from 42 Commando, as they bring the first humanitarian aid to Umm Qasr, Southern Iraq, Tuesday March 25 2003. The Marines entered the city on Monday and have been tasked to secure the port town so further aid can be delivered. (AP Photo/Jon Mills, Pool)*



*U.S. Marines stand guard outside of the Iraqi Turkmen's office at Irbil, in Kurdish-ruled northern Iraq, as Marines Maj. Gen. Henry Osman meets with Iraqi Turkmen's leader Aydin Beyatli, both unseen, Wednesday, March. 26, 2003, as part of a series of talks to coordinate military and relief strategies. (AP Photo/ Hasan Sarbakhshian)*

[www.goarmy.com](http://www.goarmy.com)

**U.S. Army Ordnance Corps  
191 Years of Service to the Line,  
On the Line, On Time  
1812 - 2003**